

## **DEUCALION AND PYRRHA FOR KIDS**

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A MAN NAMED DEUCALION. HIS FATHER, PROMETHEUS, WAS CHAINED TO A MOUNTAIN BECAUSE HE HAD NOT FOLLOWED THE RULES THAT ZEUS, KING OF THE GODS, HAD GIVEN HIM. DEUCALION WAS A GOOD SON AND VISITED HIS FATHER OFTEN. PROMETHEUS HAD SPECIAL POWERS AND WAS ABLE TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE. ONE DAY, PROMETHEUS TOLD DEUCALION THAT ZEUS WAS PLANNING TO FLOOD THE EARTH. HE TOLD DEUCALION TO BUILD AN ARK (A VERY BIG BOAT) TO SAVE HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE PYRRHA. DEUCALION, A GOOD SON, DID AS HIS FATHER TOLD HIM. HE BUILT A BIG AND STURDY ARK, AND HE AND PYRRHA JUMPED ONBOARD AND LOCKED THEMSELVES INSIDE.

BOY, DID ZEUS MAKE IT RAIN! FOR NINE WHOLE DAYS AND NINE WHOLE NIGHTS IT POURED DOWN RAIN UNTIL THE ENTIRE EARTH WAS COMPLETELY FLOODED. EVERYONE DROWNED—EVERYONE BUT DEUCALION AND PYRRHA, WHO WERE SAFE ON THEIR ARK.

WHEN THE RAIN FINALLY STOPPED AND THE EARTH STARTED TO DRY OUT, DEUCALION AND PYRRHA OPENED UP THE DOORS OF THEIR ARK AND STEPPED OUTSIDE. THE SUN WAS SHINING, AND ONLY A FEW DARK CLOUDS REMAINED, BUT DEUCALION AND PYRRHA FELT LONELY. THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! THEY DECIDED TO GO TO A TEMPLE AND VISIT A GODDESS NAMED THEMIS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL THEM WHAT THE GODS WANTED THEM TO DO NEXT.

AFTER LOOKING UP AT THE SKY AND LISTENING FOR A LONG, LONG TIME, THEMIS FINALLY SPOKE TO DEUCALION AND PYRRHA AND SAID THESE STRANGE WORDS: "LOOSEN YOUR CLOTHES AND THEN PICK UP THE BONES OF YOUR MOTHER AND THROW THEM OVER YOUR SHOULDERS." DEUCALION AND PYRRHA SCRATCHED THEIR HEADS. BONES OF OUR MOTHER—WHAT DID SHE MEAN? DEUCALION CAME UP WITH THE ANSWER TO THEMIS'S RIDDLE. SHE WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THEIR MOM, SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT MOTHER EARTH! THEN THE BONES OF MOTHER EARTH MUST BE...ROCKS AND STONES.

DEUCALION AND PYRRHA DECIDED TO TRY IT OUT. THEY PULLED ON THEIR CLOTHES TO LOOSEN THEM AND THEN EACH PICKED UP A HANDFUL OF STONES AND THREW THEM OVER THEIR SHOULDERS. ALL OF A SUDDEN, A BUNCH OF MEN AND WOMEN BURST OUT OF THE GROUND FROM THE EXACT SPOTS WHERE THE STONES LANDED! DEUCALION AND PYRRHA KEPT THROWING MORE AND MORE STONES UNTIL THE LAND WAS CROWDED WITH PEOPLE.